

Description: The Nez Perce Bio-Control Center is authorized by the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 and manages and establishes nurseries to increase biological control organism availability, distribute biological control organisms, monitor their impacts, and provide an increased number of annual technology transfer workshops to Cooperative Weed Management Areas and other landowners and managers regionally. This funding will continue the partnership between USDA and the Nez Perce Tribe to maximize the effectiveness of implementing a complete bio-control of weeds program in an Integrated Weed Management strategy. The Center will increase the availability of agents for landowners and managers throughout the region. Biological control offers long-term management of invasive weeds and can be used with other integrated pest management approaches.

Project Name: Potato Cyst Nematode Research

Amount Received: \$349,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: This funding would be used by the University of Idaho for research and development of means to eradicate and better protect the Idaho potato crop from the soil-borne pathogen potato cyst nematode, hardened nematode bodies filled with eggs which can persist in the soil for up to 25 years. Current eradication depends upon methyl bromide, which is not totally effective and which may be banned because of its ozone depleting properties, as well as other chemicals which are even less effective and several of which may also be banned. The funds will be used to maximize the efficiency of methyl bromide while it is available and develop new "green" replacement eradicates (such as green manure or biologically derived nematicides) and procedures (advance hatching frequency), as well as to improve planting material screening procedures and to study plant-vector-virus relationships, which may also lead to new ways to fight potato viruses. Previous funding established the groundwork and prepared the University of Idaho to fully implement the needed research. This project will work in concert with the ongoing USDA eradication program by providing new methods of treatment. This crop pest can result in 80% yield reductions and has negatively affected agricultural trade. There is a good chance that if this threat is addressed with adequate research and treatment it can be eliminated.

Project Name: Small Fruit Research, ID, OR, WA

Amount Received: \$307,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: The Small Fruits Initiative-Plant Improvement project will build upon the strengths of existing cooperative research programs aligned through the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research. This ongoing tri-state program supports the development of small fruits as an alternative agriculture crop in the Pacific Northwest. The funding will strengthen existing programs throughout the region and add key programs to fill in critical gaps that are not met by the existing infra-

structure associated with the Center, providing key resources for Idaho scientists to address problems that negatively impact the emerging berry, grape, and wine industries in the Northwest.

Project Name: STEEP IV—Water Quality in the Northwest

Amount Received: \$444,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: Soil erosion affects 10 million acres of cropland in the Inland Pacific Northwest, reducing farm productivity. STEEP is a coordinated research and technology transfer program designed to develop and implement erosion control practices for agriculture. Emerging environmental and human health concerns also require control of erosion and other environmental impacts of agriculture. New strategies and cropping systems for the protection of soil, water, and air resources are being developed and assessed through collaborative research conducted by scientists in the Pacific Northwest. The STEEP program continues to provide Pacific Northwest farmers and supporting agribusiness entities the new conservation technologies, tools, and understand to meet with evolving demands of agriculture, the environment, and Pacific Northwest residents.

Project Name: Tri-State Predatory Control

Amount Received: \$926,000

Account: USDA/APHIS

Recipient: USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service

Recipient's Street Address: 9134 West Blackeagle Drive, Boise, ID 83709

Description: This project would continue assistance to Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming to control wolves and other predators. The Yellowstone wolf population has reached levels 3 to 4 times the initial recovery goals, leading to a delisting from the ESA earlier this year for the wolves in Idaho and Montana and leaving states responsible for managing the increasing wolf populations. As a result, ranchers are facing increasing threats from these predators. The continuation of this program will ensure that the tri-state area will be able to address predator management.

Project Name: Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research

Amount Received: \$275,000

Account: USDA/ARS

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: The Small Fruits Initiative-Plant Improvement project will build upon the strengths of existing cooperative research programs aligned through the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research. This ongoing tri-state program supports the development of small fruits as an alternative agriculture crop in the Pacific Northwest. The funding will strengthen existing programs throughout the region and add key programs to fill in critical gaps that are not met by the existing infrastructure associated with the Center, providing key resources for Idaho scientists to address problems that negatively impact the emerging berry, grape, and wine industries in the Northwest. Funding would be provided to the University of Idaho through the USDA ARS facility located at 29603 U of I Lane, Parma, Idaho 83660. Biological control offers long-term man-

agement of invasive weeds and can be used with other integrated pest management approaches.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects I requested that are included in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2997, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY2010 and provide an explanation of my support for them.

NEW YORK TIMES WEIGHTS POLL IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the New York Times reported recently that President Obama has "considerable political strength."

The Times' based this statement on its own poll, which found the President has an approval rating of 56 percent—a higher number than any other poll has found recently.

One reason for this might be that the Times weighted the poll in favor of Democrats.

Among those who actually responded to the poll, there were more Democrats than Republicans by 6 percentage points.

But when the Times finished computing the results, they had increased the gap to an unreasonable and inexplicable 15 percentage points.

With so many more Democrats in the sample, it should come as no surprise that the President's approval rating is a higher than other polls have found.

The Times would do well to show more balance in their polling—and their reporting.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 800, H. RES. 816, AND H. RES. 810, EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA, AND INDONESIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING NATURAL DISASTERS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I extend my support for H. Res. 800, H. Res. 816, and H. Res. 810, which express sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma, for the people of American Samoa and Samoa in the aftermath of an earthquake and tsunami, and for the citizens of Indonesia after a devastating earthquake.

On September 26, 2009, Tropical Storm Ketsana made landfall in the Philippines. Rain and flooding submerged 80 percent of the capital city, Manila, took 277 lives, forced 135,470 families into evacuation centers, and destroyed over 4,500 homes. Typhoon Parma hit the islands several days later on October 2, 2009 and caused further damage.

On September 29, 2009, a powerful earthquake struck below the ocean 140 miles

southwest of American Samoa and 125 miles south of Samoa. The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, produced waves 20 feet in height that penetrated one mile inland, sweeping away homes and cars.

On September 30, 2009, 700 lives were lost to a 7.6 magnitude earthquake originating in West Sumatra, Indonesia, which also destroyed 83,700 homes, 200 public buildings, 285 schools and other infrastructure.

In the wake of these recent events and on behalf of the 70,000 Asian American and Pacific Islanders living in the 9th Congressional District of Texas, including the 6,000 Filipino Americans that I represent, I extend my sincerest condolences to the families whose loved ones were lost in these tragedies. As the Philippines, American Samoa, Samoa, and Indonesia rebuild homes and communities destroyed in the disasters, we recognize the heroic rescue efforts mounted by international aid organizations and foreign governments, including American forces sent by President Obama. Let these events remind us of our shared humanity and concern for those struggling in the face of adversity.

Americans across the country continue to watch the recovery efforts being undertaken in the Philippines, American Samoa, Samoa, and Indonesia. We stand ready to assist our fellow brothers and sisters in need at a minute's notice, and we keep you every day in our thoughts and prayers.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 800, H. Res. 816, and H. Res. 810.

HONORING THE MADISON COUNTY ROTARY CLUB FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD ACCESS RAMP FOR DISABLED PERSONS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues and express my deepest appreciation for a great accomplishment in community service in my district.

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, the Madison County Rotary Club will be building their four-hundredth handicap-accessible ramp. As a Rotarian myself, I know that service projects like this allow thousands of disabled Americans to live more independent lives each and every day.

Since 1990, Madison County Rotarians have completed numerous service projects to benefit their community. The club consists of more than 60 members from very diverse professional backgrounds, and over the past 13 years, they have collectively built enough ramps to stretch over two miles if placed end to end.

These folks do not volunteer their time and resources to build these ramps for public recognition, nor do they profit from their work. In fact, they have given away over \$600,000 worth of labor and supplies through their ramp-building effort. Instead, these wonderful folks see themselves as a part of something much bigger: an organization of 1.2 million members divided into over 33,000 clubs—all over the world.

Rotary International operates under the motto "Service above Self." This service organization works all across the world to make people's lives better. It combats hunger, improves health and sanitation, provides education and job training, promotes peace, and is working to totally eradicate polio.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Madison County Rotary Club, its dedicated members, and the goals that all Rotarians are striving to achieve. Their accomplishments make the world a better place every day, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S GOLD STAR MOTHERS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition that September 27, 2009, was designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day." It is fitting that we recognize the American Gold Star Mothers, whose sons and daughters have died in defense of the ideals of individual liberty. They should be honored and offered respect and gratitude for their personal sacrifice.

Gold Star Mother's Day is intended to honor women who deserve special recognition and gratitude for their tremendous personal loss on behalf of our country.

During the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent each Soldier in military service of the United States, and as the war progressed and Soldiers were killed or wounded in combat or died from wounds or disease, a Gold Star superimposed over the Blue Star designated the loss of these individuals. This tradition recognized Soldiers for their ultimate sacrifice to our country and the Gold Star offered families an outward symbol by which to honor the loss of a loved one.

In 1928, the Gold Star tradition was formalized in Washington, D.C., by a group of mothers who had lost sons and daughters in service to their country and met to form the American Gold Star Mothers organization. This organization is a nondenominational, non-profitable and nonpolitical organization that is dedicated in supporting veterans, military families, and Service Members returning from our present day battlefields.

In 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a proclamation which recognized Gold Star Mothers for their strength and inspiration to this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to appreciate the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America who have strengthened and inspired our Nation throughout history and that we honor the Gold Star Mothers of America for their courage and their strength.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hispanic Heritage Month,

which runs from September 15, 2009 through October 15, 2009.

The earliest Spanish settlers arrived in the United States over 400 years ago. And since then, millions of Hispanic men and women have immigrated to the United States from Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean nations, as well as Central America, South America, and Spain. These brave men, women, and children have come in search of freedom, peace, and opportunity.

The U.S. Census Bureau currently lists Hispanic Americans as the largest ethnic minority within the entire United States with a population of 46,900,000 people, making up fifteen percent of our nation's total population. Hispanics also comprise the largest ethnic minority group in 20 States including my home State of New Jersey.

Hispanics are a vital cog to our economy and own over 2.5 million small businesses in the United States, which have generated more than \$400 billion in revenue. Among these businesses, Latina-owned entities are growing quickly and are currently generating more than \$45 billion in sales. Hispanic businesses are rapidly expanding growing 31% from between 1997 and 2002, over three times the national average during that period.

Within my own Congressional District, the Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a thriving group that has been recognized with distinction. Last year the Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was recognized as the best medium Hispanic Chamber in our region, and for nearly thirty five years, the community has been served ably by the Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs.

Hispanic Americans have displayed great valor in warfare over the course of our nation's history fighting in every war in the history of the United States. There are over 1,100,000 Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces, with forty-three of them winning the Medal of Honor, the highest military distinction in the United States.

Hispanic Americans have served our nation as dedicated public servants, holding positions at the highest level of government, including Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and Members of the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, Hispanic Americans have contributed greatly to our country for hundreds of years, and are worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Hispanic Heritage Month.

SERVICE MEMBERS HOME OWNERSHIP TAX ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 3590, the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act. It is important that the brave men and women currently serving our country have an opportunity to take advantage of programs such as the First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit. I was proud to introduce similar legislation with the same goal of extending the opportunity for service men and